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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



July 31, 2015



Welcome to the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University

Greetings!

June and July have been busy months closing out the 2014-2015 year in preparation for the 2015-2016 academic year. Searches are wrapping up, and we welcomed two new faces in July while honoring our dedicated retirees.

Dr. Marieke Van Willigen began her journey as the new department chair in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology on July 1. Dr. Van Willigen's interests include gender, medical sociology, and the sociology of adolescence. New to the Dean's office is our new associate dean, Dr. Jason Slone. Dr. Slone has a background in Religious Studies. Many other new faculty will join us in August, so there are great things ahead for these departments.

Enjoy the rest of summer! We look forward to renewed energy for 2015-2016.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curt Pickett".

Psychology

In the Department of Psychology, research forms the foundation for all we do. Not only do we learn about research in the classwork, but it guides the ways we apply psychology. Through the Regents Center for Learning Disorders, Dr. George Shaver and his staff offer psycho-educational assessments to college students with learning disorders, serving students throughout the southern part of the state. At the Psychology Clinic, Psy.D. students offer therapeutic services to the community at a reduced rate, under the close supervision of Dr. Amy Luna.

Psychology majors learn about research while working with their professors. For example, students studying child development with Dr. Ty Boyer gain experience with the entire research process, from conceptualizing research questions to conducting studies and summarizing results for presentation at conferences. The Rural Health Research Institute also helps students learn how to conduct quality psychological research. Dr. Bryant Smalley and his team offer an intensive summer research experience that is so popular that over 400 applicants from across the country applied to learn about rural health issues at GSU.

Dr. Amy Hackney's study of first-year college students' beliefs regarding sexual assault shows how our research extends to students who are not psychology majors. As part of this, she and her students are investigating the impact of the Sex Signals sexual assault educational program, which offers workshops at campuses across the country. If the program achieves its aim - to reduce the occurrence of sexual assault - students at GSU and many other campuses will benefit.

Our students also conceptualize and conduct important research. Psy.D. student Zach Dietrich was awarded the 2015 Averitt Award for Excellence in Graduate Research for his work to understand how military veterans may benefit from hiking in wilderness areas through the Warrior Hike program. His work has been featured in VFW Magazine, *PTSD Journal*, as well as *Georgia Southern Magazine*. He and his faculty advisor, Dr. Shauna Joye, have received grant funding to support this innovative work.

Whether learning in the classroom about classic studies, applying the research in educational assessment or therapy settings, or generating knowledge through original research, the Department of Psychology is helping students on our campus and extending our reach well beyond Statesboro.

- Mike Nielsen

Public and Nonprofit Studies

This summer the Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies (IPNS) joined forces with a local nonprofit to serve teens, aged 12-18 years, who are in the foster care system and are considered at-risk youth from Bulloch and surrounding counties. Dr. Robbie Robichau, Assistant Professor of Public Administration in the Institute, and her husband Jason moved to Statesboro from Phoenix, AZ, in 2013 where they had spent the last 7 years volunteering with a nonprofit in Phoenix that serves the foster care population. Upon seeing a similar need to reach teens here in Statesboro, they spent the last year working with Fostering Bulloch, community and university members, and businesses planning to host two separate programs: The Southern Princess Program for girls and The All-Star Program for boys.

On May 31st, the Southern Princess Program was hosted and supported by the community, the IPNS, and around 100 volunteers. Over 30 teens attended the event, arriving in jeans and t-shirts and leaving that night in prom dresses. Over lunch the girls were encouraged to know their self-worth and inner beauty. Then, they were able to pick out donated prom dresses and shoes, get their hair styled at Split Ends and their make-up done at

Merle Norman. Afterwards the girls were driven in limousines to the NeSmith Lane Ballroom, where over 20 men dressed in all black and pink ties, escorted them down a red carpet and served them dinner, after which the girls were treated to a night of dancing and fellowship.

On June 6th, the All-Star Program was hosted at the Georgia Southern Football Facilities with approximately 30 boys in attendance. The teens played flag football with current GSU football players as well as partook in an Amazing Race event and ropes course activities at the Grube Recreation Activity Center. In addition, the teens got to hear from GSU alum and motivational speaker Adrian Peterson, Head Football Coach Willie Fritz, and Baltimore Ravens and Statesboro native DeAngelo Tyson. The night concluded with a fancy steak dinner at the Bishop Center. It took over 100 volunteers to accomplish the day of fun. Programs like these encourage local teens that people care about them and their futures; moreover, hosting the events on campus shows teens what college life is like and that it is a viable option for them. In the upcoming year, Fostering Bulloch will be hosting separate 3-day camps for 12-15 year olds girls and boys, and these programs will be the first day of the camps.

Beyond co-directing these events, Dr. Robichau's Master of Public Administration students have completed 25 different graduate-level community service projects with organizational recommendations from the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement. They have worked with a variety of local public and nonprofit agencies ranging from the Averitt Center for the Arts to Habitat for Humanity to Keeping Bulloch Beautiful and the Hearts and Hands Clinic. Projects have varied from writing grants, planning program evaluations, developing strategic management plans, and conducting financial cost-benefit analysis. Dr. Robichau believes that implementing IPNS's mission of giving outstanding academic and practical instruction to public servants who will in turn strengthen and better their communities is why she become a professor and public-servant. Projects like these give students opportunities to apply what they are learning about theory in the classroom to the "real-world" experiences students crave to have while in graduate studies. Moreover, these students have completed projects that demonstrate to potential employers the tangible skills they have gained as a student in the IPNS.

- Trent Davis

At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Scott Blair, and I am a Master of Public Administration Candidate in the Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies (IPNS). I have been interested in public service ever since I graduated from Georgia Southern with my undergraduate degree in Recreation Management. Since that time I have had the privilege of working for public and nonprofit organizations such as the USDA Forest Service and the Western Colorado Conservation Corps. I have helped manage public lands for outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation. Upon completion of my degree, I intend to work for a public organization that acts as a steward for natural resources or advocates for sustainable practices.

The IPNS's MPA program is providing me with the opportunity to advance my knowledge of how public organizations are managed and gain the skills necessary to manage them. It has been very enlightening to work for public and nonprofit organizations and then return to an academic setting to study them. I have been able to understand the concepts we learn about through my previous professional experiences and experiences shared by other students. The professors in our department do everything they can to make our courses as applicable to real life as possible. Theoretical knowledge is often coupled with tasks and exercises outside the classroom. With courses such as Grant Writing and the Local Government Practicum I have been able to provide public and nonprofit organizations with real services and products while further developing my own skills. These experiences have been valuable to me as both a student and a professional.



Scott Blair

I chose to work for the Center for Sustainability at Georgia Southern University to complete the MPA internship requirement. The Center for Sustainability is responsible for promoting and implementing sustainable practices across campus and in the community. I have had many valuable experiences working with the center throughout the summer. I have supervised the creation of a campus garden, and collaboratively coordinated a pilot campus composting program. There are a lot of details involved in trying to launch programs or initiatives that affect multiple units in a large public organization like Georgia Southern University. My experiences in the MPA program have prepared me for the responsibilities my internship has required. I have had to coordinate with multiple departments at Georgia Southern to plan and implement the Campus Garden and Campus Composting Programs. The planning and coordination of the programs has involved setting up meetings, preparing agendas, considering what each department can offer, and organizing plans to implement the programs.

Implementing the programs has been a lot fun! Managing the creation of a sustainable vegetable garden on campus has involved the recruiting and supervision of volunteers to help build and maintain the garden. I get to play in the dirt from time to time, which is a big perk for me because I enjoy gardening and being outdoors. It's been an exciting adventure watching the garden come alive and experiencing the enthusiasm of the student volunteers. I feel honored to be part of these new initiatives at our University, and I am looking forward to continuing my employment with the Center for Sustainability this coming school year.

-Scott Blair

Department News

Communication Arts

Georgia Southern students with the Multi Media Video Application class visited Okefenokee Swamp Park, Waycross, GA, with their professor Tyson Davis. This class production project involved Don Berryhill as their guide and expert narration.

Criminal Justice & Criminology

Dr. Bryan Miller in collaboration with Dr. John Stogner (UNC Charlotte) recently had their article "Assessing the Dangers of 'Dabbing': Mere Marijuana or Harmful New Trend?" published in the journal *Pediatrics*. This article describes the growing trend of using butane hash oil (BHO) and advocates for health care professionals to urge caution and to be aware of the potential dangers inherent in the production and consumption of this form of marijuana. This work has been featured by NBC news (link here: <http://www.nbcnews.com/health/kids-health/doctors-should-warn-kids-against-dabbing-marijuana-experts-say-n375636>) along with numerous other news outlets including Fox News, US News and World Report, Health Day, Medical Daily, Yahoo Health, WebMD, International Business Times, Live Science, Medical Express, WFLA Tampa FL, WSFA Montgomery AL, WTVY Dothan AL, and KVOA Tucson AZ, among others.



Multi-Media Video Application Class

Master of Arts and Social Sciences students in the Criminal Justice and Criminology concentration Shanna Felix and Justin Hoyle published a research study in the *Journal of Family Strengths* along with Drs. Chad Posick and Bryan Miller and John Stogner from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Their study found that members of the LGBT community are at greater risk of sexual assault than their counterparts and that victims of sexual assault have more alcohol-related complications than those who are not victims of sexual assault. Their results can inform tailored programmatic strategies for addressing the needs of victims from the LGBT community.

Dr. John Brent will be joining the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology as an assistant professor in June. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in 2015 from the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Dr. Brent's research primarily focuses on the cultural and structural dynamics of transgressive behavior, building a theoretical foundation for criminal justice theory, school discipline and security, and the methodological approaches in the field. Among other work, he is currently working on a book manuscript examining the mutually reinforcing relationship between school discipline and students' culturally grounded identities. He is the co-author of *Theorizing Criminal Justice: Eight Essential Orientations* with Dr. Peter B. Kraska, and his work is published in a number of journals, including the *British*

History

Erica Carter, an MA graduate with a Certificate in Public History, is now employed as Program Assistant at the Georgia Historical Society. Garrett Litton, also an MA graduate with a Certificate in Public History, is an Interpreter at the Telfair Museums in Savannah.

Dr. Michael VanWagenen has been appointed Chair of the Georgia Historical Marker Committee.

Dr. Mao Lin presented "Sino-American Rapprochement Reconsidered: Economic Diplomacy, Soft Power, and U.S.-China Relations in the 1970s" at the 2015 Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Meeting at Washington, D.C., in June.

Melissa Gayan presented "The Periphery Strikes Back: Georgia in the Wake of the Secret Speech" at the 24th Annual World History Association in Savannah, GA, at the end of June. Her paper examined the causes of the 1956 riots in Soviet Georgia as well as the politics surrounding the lack of official memory of the event.

Dr. Jonathan M. Bryant's *Dark Places of the Earth: The Voyage of the Slave Ship Antelope* (WW Norton) came out in July. On July 15, 2015, Dr. Bryant was a guest on NPR's Diane Rehm Show discussing the book.

<http://thedianerehmshow.org/shows/2015-07-15/jonathan-m-bryant-dark-places-of-the-earth-the-voyage-of-the-slave-ship-antelope>. On Sunday, July 19, the book was reviewed very positively in the *Boston Globe* and the *Philadelphia Tribune*:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2015/07/18/dark-places-earth-the-voyage-slave-ship-antelope-jonathan-bryant/F8WnpwJRce2dMGIN9Xtr1M/story.html>

http://www.phillytrib.com/lifestyle/the-antelope----an-untold-story-of-the/article_685ac4b1-5b77-5393-b60b-d3130928be65.html

A selection from *Dark Places* appeared in the online journal *Salon*: http://www.salon.com/topic/dark_places_of_the_earth/.

Bryant was also elected to a three-year term on the board of the Owens-Thomas House, part of the Telfair Museums in Savannah. On August 5, 2015, Dr. Bryant will do a book presentation and signing at the Ships of the Sea Museum in Savannah.

Dr. Jeff Burson has recently published an article entitled "Unlikely Tales of Fo and Ignatius: Rethinking the Radical Enlightenment through French Appropriation of Chinese Buddhism" in *French Historical Studies* 38.3 (July 2015). In June, Dr. Burson was invited to give a talk on "The Distinctive Contours of the Jesuit Scholarship in the Eighteenth-Century" at the First International Congress of Jesuit Studies convened at Boston College (10-14 June 2015). On July 1, he served as commenter on a panel entitled, "From Revolution to Nation: A Changing World" at the World History Association annual meeting in Savannah.

Music

Maestro Adrian Gnam, Director, and Dr. Gregory Pritchard, Associate Director of the International Conductors Workshop and Competition, announced the winners of the sixth summer ICWC held July 10 to 12 at Centennial High School in Roswell, GA. Thirteen participants representing China, Russia, and the United States conducted the professional ICWC orchestra on a culminating free concert in works by Beethoven, Bernstein, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Verdi, Stravinsky, and Johann Strauss, Jr. The orchestra was made up of players from numerous Atlanta orchestras including the Atlanta Ballet, Gwinnett Symphony, and Gwinnett Symphony Chamber Orchestra.

The aspiring symphony conductors participated in four intensive rehearsals and the concert during the three-day workshop which has become one of the most well-known and highly regarded conductor training programs in the nation.

The three winners of the 2015 July International Conductors Workshop and Competition, sponsored by the Gwinnett Symphony Chamber Orchestra and Georgia Southern University, are Nadya Potemkina, originally from Leningrad, Russia, and now conducting at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT; Benjamin Grow, originally from State College, PA, now working in New York; and Kyle Ritenauer, originally from Macedonia, OH, also presently conducting in New York.

Eric Spencer (trombone) was the solo chair with the Disneyland All-American College Band. Only three tenor trombonists from across the country were chosen to be in the band, and he was chosen for the solo chair.

Sociology & Anthropology

Department chair Peggy Hargis retired after 21 years of service to Georgia



Eric Spencer, Trombone

Southern University.

Public & Nonprofit Studies

Dr. P. Cary Christian delivered a paper entitled, "The Impact of Trade-Based Money Laundering and Other Transfer-Pricing Violations on State Corporate Tax Receipts" at the Public Management Research Association Conference in Minneapolis, MN. This paper examines the state corporate tax implications of abnormal transfer-pricing by U.S. companies involved in international trade through analysis of every import and export transaction for the years 2005 through 2009 using the interquartile range methodology provided in regulations to Internal Revenue Code Section 482. A policy recommendation is made for improving tax compliance through more rigorous state involvement in transfer pricing enforcement and greater formal collaboration with the Internal Revenue Service with

respect to transfer pricing.

Dr. Trenton J. Davis and Dr. P. Cary Christian were invited to speak at the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) Annual Convention in Savannah, GA. They shared information with city managers from across Georgia about the last two cycles of the GMA Local Government Practicum and detailed how cities can submit project proposals for upcoming programs.

Alumni News

LeVar James ('04) is a videographer at WSB in Atlanta and was recently named winner of a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for his part in a hard news story that he shot and edited.

Share your updates with us through [email](#) or by filling out the online [alumni survey](#). It is always wonderful to hear from you!

Upcoming Events

[\[View Complete Event List \]](#)

Give to CLASS

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences aspires to be recognized nationally for its superior and innovative educational experiences across the humanities, social sciences and arts. Our goal is to provide outstanding programs that are responsive to the needs of the region and to allow all members of the college – faculty, staff and students – to serve together to enhance quality of life. If you would like to support CLASS in meeting these goals, please visit our [annual campaign website](#).

